THE SIMPSONS

"Lisa On Ice"

Written by

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FIRST DRAFT

THE SIMPSONS

"Lisa On Ice"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - EVENING

Heavy winds are blowing. Snow is starting to fall. It looks like a bad winter storm is on its way.

INT. SIMPSON LIVING ROOM - CONT. ACTION

Homer is on couch watching TV. Bart and Lisa are on floor doing homework. On the TV, an announcer talks over a montage of shots of fires, murders, explosions, riots and people screaming in pain.

NEWS ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

It's time for the Channel Six "Action" News!!

A helicopter with "ACTION NEWS DEATH-CHOPPER 6" written on the side flies quickly through the city at night.

HOMER

Wow, look at 'em go! I love watching the news now that they've added "action".

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

If we can't get there when it's happening, we'll make something else happen!

The helicopter starts shooting at traffic below, causing several accidents and the explosion of a tanker truck.

BART

God bless you, Action News, the last safe harbor of TV violence.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And now, here's your "Action" Anchor,
Kent "Gunner" Brockman.

On TV, we see Kent Brockman dressed in black T-shirt and beret like Sylvester Stallone in "Demolition Man".

KENT BROCKMAN

Topping the "Action" News tonight, a
tragic plane crash in which everyone
sadly escaped unharmed, but first a
look at the snow storm headed for
Springfield with our own Thunder
McBreeze. Thundy?

In front of a weather map, we see Thunder, a rugged looking man in flak jacket, helmet and boots.

THUNDER MCBREEZE

Thanks, Gunner. The storm will slam
into Springfield at "0300" hours,
bombarding us with three feet of the
deadly white powder. School will be
aborted, so scrub that homework, kids.
You're going on "R & R"!

BART

Yeah! Thanks, Thundy!

Bart immediately closes his book and throws it aside.

LISA

Bart, your report is due tomorrow.
What if he's wrong?

BART

Dad, Lisa's dissing Thundy again.

HOMER

That's it! Go to your room, young lady! I've had it with your blasphemous mouth!

LISA

All this over a weatherman?

HOMER

Meteorologist, missy!

INT. BART'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Lisa bursts in on a sleeping Bart.

LISA

Snowball fight!

Lisa throws a snowball and hits Bart. Bart jumps out of bed and chases her in his pajamas.

BART

Say your prayers, Nerdina!

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - CONT. ACTION

Lisa runs down stairs. Bart follows.

LISA

(YELLING, EXCITED) I nailed Bart Simpson with the first snowball of winter! Wait 'til I tell everyone!

Lisa runs out front door.

BART

Hope they can hear you when you're buried under six feet of ice cold...

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - CONT. ACTION

Bart runs outside in his cowboy pajamas. He sees the sun is shining, there is no snow and all the other kids are standing outside dressed for school.

BART

What the...?

The kids all laugh at Bart.

NELSON

Haw haw!

LISA

(LAUGHING) I made the snowball from the frost in our freezer.

JIMBO

(TEASING) Nice p.j.'s, Simpson! Did your Mommy buy them for you?

BART

Of course she did. Who else would have?

JIMBO

Shut up!

Jimbo punches Bart in the stomach and walks away.

INT. BART'S CLASSROOM - AN HOUR LATER

KRABAPPEL

I'm sure no one listened to that fool on TV last night and you all did your book reports, right?

The students all hold up their reports. Bart is the only student without one. He quickly tears a paper out of his notebook where he has doodled a picture of Krabappel atop the Empire State Building fighting off airplanes like King Kong and holds it up.

KRABAPPEL

Very good. Okay, I'll call you alphabetically to give your reports. We'll do "A" through "M" today and "N" through "Z" tomorrow.

BART

(TO SELF) I'm saved! I love being a Ssssimpson!

KRABAPPEL

Let's see, we have no "A's", so let's go right to the "B's". Bart?

BART

(SHOCKED) Huh?!

KRABAPPEL

Ha!!... Come on, Bart. We're all waiting to hear your report. And this time, I'm not accepting that Jerry Seinfeld cut and paste job as a book.

MILHOUSE

(RAISING HAND) How about Diana Ross: "Secrets of a Sparrow"?

KRABAPPEL

Get real.

BART

(CONFESSING) I'm afraid I didn't...

Suddenly, Skinner's voice comes over the P.A. system.

ANGLE ON INTERCOM SPEAKER

SKINNER (V.O.)

Attention. This is your feared, but respected, principal speaking.

An orange hits and splatters on the speaker, followed by a wadded up paper and half a sandwich. We cut back to the class and see it is Krabappel who is throwing things. She notices the class is staring at her.

KRABAPPEL

(DEFENSIVE) You didn't see the latest benefits package. It's an insult!

SKINNER (V.O.)

All students, proceed immediately to an emergency assembly in the former Chevy Chase Auditorium.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Principal Skinner is on stage behind a podium. The auditorium is filled with students. Lisa sits next to Janey.

LISA

(ANGRY) I can't believe he called an emergency assembly right in the middle of our math test! This better be a dead teacher or something!

SKINNER

Children, the times, they are a-becoming quite different. American students grades are at all time lows. I blame this one hundred per cent on "gangsta" rap. So to stop a student before starting that downward slide, I have come up with these "Academic Alerts".

He holds up a stack of red cards.

You will receive one as soon as your grades slip in any subject. This way, your parents won't have to wait until report card time to punish you.

Bart gulps nervously.

MARTIN

(ENTHUSIASTICALLY) I like it!

SKINNER

So, as your generation likes to say, let's get the show on the road!

He starts calling out students names.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

Wiggum, Ralph...

Ralph comes forward and Skinner gives him his Alert card.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

(SOTTO) Problem in English, Ralph. Come on, son, it's our own damn language!

Ralph walks away.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

Muntz, Nelson...

Nelson comes forward and Skinner gives him his Alert card.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

(SOTTO) Failing history, Nelson. I gave a testicle to this country, boy. Can't you at least remember a date or two?

Nelson walks away.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

Simpson...

Bart stands up.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

...Lisa...

The auditorium gasps. A stunned Lisa comes forward to get her card.

LISA

(TO SELF) This can't be happening. What subject could I be failing? I love math, adore geography, worship phonics...

Lisa takes the card from Skinner. The camera pushes in tight on her face.

LISA (CONT'D)

(READING CARD) Gym?!!

The camera pulls back and we see Lisa is reading card in the Simpson kitchen, later that day. The whole family is there.

BART

I still don't understand why you just didn't read it this morning in the auditorium.

MARGE

I've got to be honest, Lisa. Your father and I are a little concerned to see you having an academic problem.

Lisa looks over at Homer and Bart. Homer is just finishing signing Bart's stack of red Academic Alert cards.

HOMER

That's all of them. And just because you didn't forge our names, here's a new pair of hockey skates for you.

BART

Thanks, Dad! Can I wear them to my game tonight?

Homer looks at Marge. She smiles and nods. Bart kisses them both and exits.

LISA

(SOTTO) Well, that seems fair... (TO MARGE AND HOMER) But gym isn't even a real subject! It's not important.

MARGE

Actually, Lisa, your gym grade will be factored into your cumulative grade point average, which has a direct bearing on which college you get into, thereby deciding what your career will be, and the quality of lifestyle you'll be able to raise your children in.

LISA

I know! I'm rationalizing! You know what it is? The gym teacher hates me because I'm smart.

MARGE

Oh, Lisa, I don't thi hat's it.

HOMER

(HELPFUL) Yeah, maybe it's just because you stink at sports, sweetheart. Which there's no shame in. Women shouldn't be participating in athletics, anyway. They should stick to female events, such as hot oil wrestling and such and such.

MARGE

If you really think the grade is unfair, Lisa, maybe you should talk to your teacher and ask her what the problem is.

Bart enters in hockey uniform. He plays for "BURNS NUCLEAR MUTANT FLESH EATERS", which has a scowling Mr. Burns face on the front of the jersey.

BART

Has anybody seen my brass knuckles?

HOMER

(PULLING THEM OUT OF HIS POCKET, CHEERFUL) Right here, son. I took them to work today to give the new guy the old rookie treatment.

Bart and Homer laugh as Bart slides the brass knuckles on.

MARGE

(SOTTO, TO LISA, CONCERNED) I don't mean to pressure you, honey, but I really need you to get in to a good college.

INT. GIRLS GYM TEACHER'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

A nervous Lisa sits waiting for they gym teacher. She looks around the office. There are many awards, trophies, and an autographed photo of Marsha Mason. The gym teacher enters from her shower, unaware that Lisa is there. She is naked and her towel is around her shoulders.

GYM TEACHER

(SEES LISA, SCREAMS)

LISA

(SCREAMS, THEN, POINTING AT THE LOWER HALF OF GYM TEACHER'S BODY) Oh, my God! You've got both kinds!!

GYM TEACHER

(COVERING WITH TOWEL) You didn't see that. Got it?

Lisa nods.

GYM TEACHER (CONT'D)

Now what are you doing here, Simpson?

LISA

(REGAINING COMPOSURE) Well, Miss O'Neill, I was wondering why you gave me this "Academic Alert".

GYM TEACHER

Because I don't like smart kids.

LISA

I knew it! That's not fair.

GYM TEACHER

I agree. Fortunately, you also stink at sports.

LISA

Isn't there a way I can bring my grade up? Maybe I could write a paper on the psycho/physical connection between low self-esteem and not being able to climb the rope.

GYM TEACHER

(GETTING AN IDEA) Have you ever played on any local youth sports teams?

LISA

You mean that barbaric past-time where children are pitted against each other and taught to win at all costs under the guise of having fun and getting a little fresh air?

GYM TEACHER

Yes. Get yourself on a team and I'll give you extra credit.

LISA

But I stink at sports!

GYM TEACHER

That's the deal, Simpson. Become a jock or you fail.

Lisa reacts.

GYM TEACHER (CONT'D)

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm late for a very important urologist appointment.

A dejected Lisa starts to exit. The gym teacher's back is to camera and we hear her zipping up her jeans.

GYM TEACHER (CONT'D)

Oww!!! I'm not going to miss that.

INT. BASKETBALL COURT - THE NEXT DAY

A sign reads: "GIRLS BASKETBALL TRYOUTS RULES" 1. "MUST HAVE OWN SNEAKERS". 2. "PROOF OF AGE REQUIRED" 3. "DON'T TRY TO BE AS GOOD AS THE BOYS"

Two coaches with clipboards watch as we pan down a line of girls looking straight ahead and dribbling basketballs proficiently. Lisa is looking down while dribbling and the ball hits her in the face repeatedly.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - LATER

Girls are doing a soccer drill where they throw the ball up in the air and then bounce it off of their head as many times as possible. Lisa throws the soccer ball in the air and tilts her head too far back, so she is looking straight up. The ball comes down and hits her in the face repeatedly.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - LATER

We see players practicing: running through the tires, hitting the tackling dummy, etc. We go close on a coach's screaming face.

COACH

(LOOKING DOWN) You wanna play football?!! You're too small to play football!! Oh, here come the tears. Go home to your Mommy, cry baby!

We see a boy in a uniform crying. He turns and runs away. On the back of his jersey is the name "RUDY".

COACH (CONT'D)

(THREATENING) Any more "plucky underdogs" out here trying to inspire others?! Well?!!

Behind the coach, we see a terrified Lisa in a football uniform scurrying away.

EXT. BUILDING DOORWAY - LATER

Lisa is there with a tough looking man.

MAN

Sorry, kid. Rules are rules. Come back when you're older.

A dejected Lisa walks away. We pull back and see the sign on the building: "NICK'S HOT OIL WRESTLING". We then see Homer, Lenny and Carl pull into Nick's parking lot.

LENNY

(DUCKING DOWN IN CAR) Uh-oh, Homer, there's your kid.

HOMER

(WAVING) Hi, honey!

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON KITCHEN - THAT NIGHT

Marge is washing off some fruit. A depressed Lisa sits at the table.

LISA

So I'm not an athlete. Why can't I just let my gym teacher fail me? Just take an "F" and live with it? Bart does it all the time and you don't see him sitting around depressed, do you?

MARGE

He may not show it, honey, but believe me, it bothers him on the inside.

LISA

No, it doesn't.

MARGE

(RELUCTANTLY) I know. Here's your pomegranate.

Marge tosses the fruit to Lisa. It goes right through her hands and out the open kitchen window. From outside, we hear:

HOMER (V.O.)

Doh! (THEN WITH MOUTH FULL) Mmm...pomegranate.

MARGE

Oh, your father and Bart are finally home from the game.

Homer enters with Bart. Bart is in his hockey uniform.

BART

Sorry we're late, Mom, but we had to go to the hospital to see Milhouse.

MARGE

The hospital?!

HOMER

Don't overreact, Marge. He just got another concussion.

MARGE

How did it happen?

BART

(COVERING) Uh, it was just one of those unavoidable hockey mishaps.

HOMER

Couldn't be prevented.

FLASHBACK

INT. HOCKEY RINK - EARLIER THAT NIGHT

Bart has a breakaway and is skating down one on one with Milhouse, who is the goalie for the Kwik-E-Mart Mighty Sacred Cows. Bart has an evil look on his face, similar to the Mr. Burns face on the front of his jersey. Milhouse is trembling in the goal.

HOMER

(FROM STANDS) Come on, Bart! You can do it!

Bart bears down on Milhouse, who braces himself.

MILHOUSE

(ANGRY AT HIMSELF) They offered me

equipment manager, but "Nooo", I didn't

want the "nerd job".

BART

(TRYING TO DISTRACT MILHOUSE) Hey,

Milhouse, did you hear Beethoven the

dog got run over by a big rig?

MILHOUSE

(UPSET, LETTING HIS GUARD DOWN) Oh,

no! Does he need anything?

Bart takes advantage of Milhouse's lapse and fires the puck. It hits Milhouse right in the mask, knocking him to the ground.

BART

Rats! He stopped it.

HOMER

Way to go, Bart!! (TAPPING A MAN ON

THE SHOULDER) That's my boy!!

MAN

But he didn't score.

HOMER

You want him to hurt the goalie and

score? For God's sakes, they're only

kids!

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. KWIK-E-MART - THE NEXT DAY

Apu is on phone. Lisa is at magazine rack.

APU

Do not be concerning yourself with the team, Milhouse. I am praying only for your speedy recovery and for your parents to sign a form alleviating Kwik-E-Mart Corporation of any financial liability. Good-bye.

He hangs up. Lisa approaches Apu holding a magazine.

LISA

Milhouse is hurt pretty bad, huh?

APU

Personally, I think he's milking it. But regardless, I will be seeking a new goaltender.

LISA

How about letting me try out?

APU

(LAUGHS) Oh, I could not be doing that. The danger is far too great for such a little girl.

LISA

Okay, suit yourself. I guess I'll just be putting this copy of Omni Magazine back on the rack.

APU

What? But you are the only person who buys this knowledgeable book. I cannot afford to be taking such losses.

LISA

(COY) Oh, come on, Apu. I'm sure there's someone else in Springfield intelligent enough to buy Omni.

Apu looks around store. He sees Barney, Nelson and Jailbird.

BARNEY/NELSON/JAILBIRD

(BELCH)

Apu runs outside and looks around. In cars, walking, on skateboard, etc., he sees Chief Wiggum, Grampa, the Sea Captain, Lenny, Carl, Homer, Bart, Skinner, Patty and Selma, Krusty, Moe, Groundskeeper Willie, etc. A defeated Apu re-enters the store.

APU

You are one tough customer... And this is one dumb town.

Lisa smiles.

INT. SPRINGFIELD SKATING RINK - THE NEXT DAY

We start tight on Apu. He wears his Kwik-E-Mart smock, a cap and a whistle.

APU

(CALLING OUT TO KIDS) Come on, let's speed it up! I've got novelty key chains that move faster than you! That's more like it. Looking good!

We see the kids are not practicing, but painting an ad for the Kwik-E-Mart on the boards in the rink. The ad next to it has a picture of Chief Wiggum and says: SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT: WE'RE ARMED AGAIN!"

JIMBO

When are we going to practice? I'm tired of working on this stupid sign!

APU

Please do not get into my doghouse, Jimbo... (BLOWS WHISTLE) Okay, Cows, be listening up! Our beloved, but cowardly goaltender, Milhouse, is still injured. The candidates for his replacement are...

The kids step onto the ice in full goalie equipment as Apu says their name.

APU (CONT'D)

Ralph Wiggum, Rod Flanders, Rudy...

TEAM

(VARIOUS) You're too small, Rudy!/Go home, Rudy!/You can't play hockey, Rudy!

Rudy bursts into tears and runs off the ice.

APU

...and Lisa Simpson.

The team laughs. Lisa nervously steps onto the ice.

APU (CONT'D)

I will not tolerate such mockery, unless one of you is prepared to buy Omni Magazine.

They quickly stop laughing.

APU (CONT'D)

Now, to be sure we don't wind up with another sissy goalie, Kwik-E-Mart spokesperson Wayne Gretzky has been kind enough to come down and fire some shots at you kids.

Wayne Gretzky skates onto the ice and fires a blistering slap shot at the empty goal. A worried Rod and Lisa look at each other. Ralph has no reaction and stares straight ahead, a blank expression on his face.

RALPH

(REALIZING) Hey, this isn't Indian Guides.

Ralph exits.

APU

Okay, Rod Flanders, you're first.

LISA

Don't worry, Rod. He can't be that good. He still has all his teeth.

(LAUGHS UNEASILY)

A nervous Rod skates toward the goal.

ROD

(LOOKING HEAVENWARD) Lord, I'm putting my frail, little body in your hands and trusting your divine cat-like reflexes.

WAYNE GRETZKY

Don't worry, Rod. I'll take it easy on you.

Wayne and Apu wink at each other and laugh. Wayne skates up to a line of pucks and fires five quick shots at Rod. Rod shows amazing speed and agility on skates, moving side to side, diving to the ice, springing back up, etc. All five shots score, but Rod managed to avoid contact with every one of them. He is elated.

ROD

(LOOKING HEAVENWARD AGAIN) You're the _real_ Great One!

WAYNE GRETZKY

I heard that, Flanders!

A frightened Rod quickly skates off the ice and exits.

APU

Okay, Lisa Simpson, let's see your stuff.

LISA

(AS SHE SKATES SLOWLY TOWARD GOAL) Now, Mr. Gretzky, I don't want you to go easy on me because I'm a female. A female child. A female child with no previous experience in this brutal sport. Got it?

WAYNE GRETZKY

You're the boss... Say, are you related to the Homer Simpson who wrote to me asking for ten million dollars because his whole family went blind in the floods?

LISA

No.

From Lisa's p.o.v., we watch Wayne lining up the pucks to shoot at her.

LISA'S BRAIN

Have you lost your mind? Is this the ultimate foolishness? To purposely place yourself in the path of a piece of vulcanized rubber travelling ninety miles per hour?

LISA

But if I don't, I'll fail gym! Help me, Brain!

LISA'S BRAIN

Alright, alright! Just close your eyes and stand still.

LISA

Are you sure?

LISA'S BRAIN

Are you questioning me?

Wayne starts shooting. The pucks all bounce off of her. Apu and the rest of the team are stunned. They applaud.

APU

Congratulations, Lisa, you are now a Cow!

LISA

Brainy, you're the greatest.

We do a "Honeymooners" type "iris" dissolve to next scene, along with music.

INT. SIMPSON KITCHEN - THAT EVENING

The Simpsons are eating dinner. Lisa has just told them the news.

BART

The Mighty Sacred Cows made you their new goalie? (EVIL LAUGH, THEN TO MARGE) May I be excused to work on my slap shot?

MARGE

Lisa, hockey is such a dangerous sport. There's so many different ways to get seriously hurt.

BART

Twenty-two, but you let me play.

HOMER

Yeah, Marge, you let Bart play. Are you trying to send a message to your daughter that she's inferior to boys?

MARGE

Homer! You want Lisa to play hockey?

HOMER

All I'm saying is kids are human beings. Human beings like fun. Hockey is fun. (TURNS TO LISA, SUPPORTIVE) It's okay with me, Lisa, because you're a human being. (BEAT, THEN OFF THE FAMILY'S STARES) And hockey is fun. Pass the Stove Top, please.

LISA

(PULLING SOME BOOKS FROM HER BAG) Mom, I've been reading about hockey because I figured I should know the object of the game and stuff like that. Anyway, I learned there are two female goalies currently owned by National Hockey League teams, Manon Rheaume with the Tampa Bay Lightning, and Erin Whitten with the Detroit Red Wings.

MARGE

(SMILES A BEAT, THEN WORRIED MURMUR)

BART

If I punch Lisa in an athletic situation, that's different than punching her at home, right?

HOMER

That would be correct.

INT. SIMPSON LIVING ROOM - THAT EVENING

Lisa, wearing a pair of roller blades, and holding a goalie stick and glove, puts a videotape in the VCR.

ANGLE ON TV

Inside an empty arena, we see a man with dark hair, wearing a blue uniform skating swiftly with the puck, shooting and scoring. He raises his arms in celebration. There is a very bad match cut to a close-up of Troy McClure with his light brown hair, wearing a red uniform.

TROY

Not bad, eh? Hi, I'm Troy McClure. You may remember me from the controversial sports film: "The Quarterback Was A Queer", or my classic portrayal of an alcoholic baseball player in "Seventh Inning Retch"... But today, we're here to talk about a sport that CBS has suddenly shown interest in: ice hockey. My celebrity guest is a real hockey nut who was born in Canada, where hockey was discovered hundreds of years ago.

LISA

This may not be the educational experience I had hoped.

TROY

He's also a well-known actor much like yours truly. I'm talking about Richard Dean Anderson, better known as TV's "MacGyver"! Come on in, R.D.!

Richard Dean Anderson skates up to Troy and stops. He has a black eye.

TROY (CONT'D)

Whoa, look at that shiner! Looks like someone's been spending some time in the penalty box, eh, Dickie? (LAUGHS)

RICHARD DEAN ANDERSON

Huh? (EYES DARTING) Oh, yeah. Hockey's a tough game, Troy.

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. PATTY AND SELMA'S APARTMENT - SIMULTANEOUS

Patty and Selma are in the living room, looking through a photo album.

PATTY

Hey, Selma, remember that time you decked Richard Dean Anderson because he wouldn't pinch your ass?

SELMA

(LAUGHS) Yeah, those guys think they can treat their fans like crap just because they're famous.

INT. SKATING RINK LOCKER ROOM - THE NEXT NIGHT

It is a dingy, dirty dressing room with equipment and towels thrown all over the floor and graffiti on the walls. The boys from Lisa's team are getting dressed for the game. There are things being thrown around, fights, towel snapping, etc. There is also a lot of locker room talk.

BOYS

(VARIOUS) Hey, who ripped one?!/Eat me!/Get bent!/I haven't seen one that small since my pet flea had a baby!

The boys laugh. In the corner, behind a makeshift partition, sits a shocked and embarrassed Lisa.

LISA

The things I do to get an "A"... Where do boys learn that language?

Homer and Bart enter the locker room.

HOMER

(TO BART) ...so, the nun tells the priest, "Fifty dollars, Father, same as in New York City"!

Homer and Bart laugh.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(SPOTTING LISA) Honey, me and Bart are here to wish you good luck tonight.

LISA

Is Mom here?

BART

(SHAKES HEAD "NO") She's afraid to watch 'cause you might get hurt. I said I didn't mind watching and offered to take her place.

LISA

Your support is truly appreciated.

HOMER

Before the game starts, do you have any questions you want to ask Daddy?

LISA

Yes. What's a "woody"?

INT. SKATING RINK - A WHILE LATER

We see Lisa's team is playing against "Moe's Designated Drivers". It is near the end of the game. The scoreboard shows Lisa's team ahead, 1-0. We see Lisa make save after save to keep her team in the game. The crowd cheers. Bart is in shock. He hears people talking in the crowd.

FANS

(VARIOUS) Wow, that girl is fantastic!/I've never seen anything like her!\I heard she reads "Omni".

Homer taps the same guy on the shoulder as when he bragged about Bart earlier.

HOMER

What's a "woody"?

The guy pulls his family away. The horn goes off, ending the game. The Cows have gotten their first win. Lisa's team mobs her. We see an angry Moe tearing chairs out and throwing them on the ice.

MOE

(TO SELF) Beaten by a girl! It's that night in Morocco all over again.

MOE'S FLASHBACK

We open on a sign: "Moe's Moroccan Bistro", a rundown bar like the one in "Raiders of the Lost Ark". A crowd of low-lifes is watching Moe arm wrestle a woman. He loses and the crowd laughs. Moe reluctantly gives her the keys to the bar. She rips down the sign and breaks it in half. A humiliated Moe starts to leave and turns around at the door.

MOE

Ah, go to hell! I'm heading for America to open a classy place where I'll never have to serve losers like you again!

END OF FLASHBACK

Barney approaches Moe.

BARNEY

Hey, Moe, I forgot to tell you. I threw up in your cash drawer last night.

Milhouse, his head overly bandaged, approaches Bart.

MILHOUSE

You know, Bart, with Lisa in goal, the Cows could give your team a run for first place.

BART

One game doesn't mean anything. Lisa just got lucky tonight. They'll have to win a lot more to catch us.

MONTAGE:

A) We see Lisa make some saves to win the game and she's mobbed by her teammates. The fans cheer. We cut to a newspaper showing the local hockey standings. The name "Cows" moves from last to next to last.

B) Lisa making more saves against a different team. Her team wins again. The fans cheer. We cut to newspaper hockey standings again and see the Cows move up two more places.

C) Lisa misses one shot and her team loses. Her team shuns her and leaves her on the ice alone. The fans throw popcorn and beer at her from the stands. We cut to newspaper and see Cows drop down one place.

D) Lisa wins again. Team mobs her. Fans cheer. We cut to newspaper which shows the Cows in second place, right behind Bart's team. The newspaper closes and we see it is being read by a concerned Bart in the Simpson living room.

BART

Rats.

We see Homer on the couch looking in a dictionary.

HOMER

Ah, here it is. "A car popular in the late fifties with side panels made of wood." (CALLING OUT) Hey, Lisa...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. LISA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Lisa is doing her homework. Suddenly, a balled-up sock hits her in the face. She looks up and sees Homer in the doorway with a laundry basket full of balled-up socks..

HOMER

Come on, honey, practice time. Gotta keep those reflexes sharp.

LISA

But, Dad, I'm studying for a very important social studies test. What's more important? An uncivilzed sport or my education?

Another sock hits Lisa.

INT. KWIK-E-MART - TWO WEEKS LATER

Rev. Lovejoy is shopping. Apu is behind counter.

REV. LOVEJOY

(UPSET) Apu, you're all out of the crackers I use for communion! (HOLDS UP A PACKAGE OF COOKIES) I can't symbolize the body of Christ with Oreos, damn it!

Homer walks by with a shopping cart full of stuff. He grabs Oreos from Lovejoy.

HOMER

Mmmm... creamy filled Christ.

Homer exits without paying for his stuff. We hear a loud siren and Apu's pre-recorded voice.

APU (V.O.)

"You have activated the Kwik-E-Mart alarm system. Please do not run away while I go in the back room and call the police..."

HOMER

Okay, Apu, call the cops...(SMILING) ...but I hope Lisa doesn't catch a cold and have to miss the game tonight.

Apu puts an Omni Magazine on top of Homer's stolen merchandise.

APU

(GRUDGINGLY) Would you like a bag for that?

HOMER

A free bag? Woo hoo!

INT. SPRINGFIELD SKATING RINK - THAT NIGHT

We see a pile of goalie equipment (huge pads, stick, glove, duffel bag, etc.) walking down the hallway to the Cows dressing room. The equipment lowers and we see Lisa. She opens the dressing room door. The place looks beautiful. It's all cleaned up, the graffiti is gone. The boys are all sitting down, quietly reading. A few of them rush over to help her with her stuff.

TEAM

(VARIOUS) Good evening, Lisa./You look nice tonight./We all got our homework done./Have you seen "The Joy Luck Club"?

Lisa is shocked. She walks over to her area and sees her partition is now a beautiful screen with oriental painting.

JIMBO

(NERVOUS) We took a vote, Lisa, and in case we haven't said it before, we love you.

The guys applaud Lisa.

LISA

Thanks, but I really don't deserve this. You're the ones out there killing yourselves. I just stand there, sometimes barely paying attention.

There is a long beat, then:

TEAM

(VARIOUS) Alright, who ripped one?!/Eat me!/Get bent!

They start throwing things, snapping towels, spraying graffiti on the walls, etc.

LISA

(TO SELF) I've got to learn how to take a compliment.

INT. SIMPSON BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

Marge is finishing Diana Ross: "Secrets of a Sparrow".

MARGE

(ANGRY) That's it? I already knew she was in a group called The Supremes!

Homer enters.

HOMER

Marge, my dreams have come true! Our children are slugging it out for the regular season championship! Who are you going to root for? Bart or Lisa?

MARGE

They're both our children, Homer. We can't cheer for one over the other!

HOMER

(WHINING) But Lisa is better!

MARGE

Didn't I once hear Pat Summerall say that better doesn't always win? That sometimes desire, guts and just being "hungrier" can lead to upset victories?

HOMER

Oh, my God, Pat's right! What am I going to do?! (DRAMATIC) What - am - I - going - to- do?

MARGE

Just cheer for both of them.

HOMER

Okay.

INT. GIRLS' GYM TEACHER OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

The gym teacher is on the phone and uses a cane to pace back and forth in obvious pain. Lisa enters.

GYM TEACHER

(INTO PHONE, ANGRY) What the hell do you mean, "you miss it"?! It was your idea for me to have the surgery! (NOTICES LISA) I have to go. (SHE HANGS UP PHONE, TO LISA) You didn't hear that. Got it?

isa nods.

LISA

You wanted to see me?

GYM TEACHER

I just want to tell you I'm impressed with you playing on that hockey team.

LISA

(SMILES) Well, when I want something badly, I refuse to give up.

GYM TEACHER

Don't get me wrong. I still think you're a "little Miss Know-It- All", but you have an "A" in gym. Now get back to class.

Lisa exits into locker room, but stops when she hears the gym teacher back on the phone.

GYM TEACHER (CONT'D)

(INTO PHONE) It's me. Alright, do you want me to call the doctor to see if he's given it to somebody else yet?

A confused Lisa exits locker room.

INT. KWIK-E-MART - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Lisa is talking to Apu.

APU

Quitting?! But you cannot be quitting the team now. This is the most important game of my young, but promising, coaching career.

LISA

But I accomplished what I set out to do. I improved my grade in gym. To continue playing now would imply that I actually enjoy this uncivilized sport. Besides, it distracts me from my schoolwork and my Mom worries.

APU

But we will most certainly be defeated without you.

LISA

I'm not a great hockey player. I merely approached the job of goaltending mathematically and played the proper angles. I still don't even understand "icing".

APU

Oh, good, it's not just me.

Homer comes out from one of the aisles with a shopping cart overloaded with food.

HOMER

Lisa, what are you doing here?

LISA

I just quit the team.

HOMER

Doh!

Homer looks at his basket of food, the door and Apu.

APU

Don't even be thinking about it.

He discreetly opens his smock to show Homer a pistol tucked into his pants.

HOMER

(DEFEATED MOAN)

Homer turns his basket around and takes a couple steps, then suddenly swings around and bolts for the door with his food.

HOMER

(AS HE PASSES LISA) See you at home,

honey.

APU

Hey!

Apu jumps over counter and gives chase, waving his pistol.

INT. LISA'S ROOM - LATER

Lisa is on phone.

LISA

(INTO PHONE) Jimbo, it's not "just one game". If we win tonight, there's quarterfinals, semi-finals, state finals, national finals... It's a never ending series of "must" games, designed by a greedy sports hierarchy to drain "Joe Fan" of every penny of disposable income... Yes, you did tell me you loved me.

INT. GARAGE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

We hear a loud grinding noise coming from garage. We see Bart sharpening his skates, then a knife.

BART

(EVIL CHUCKLE) You just can't have this kind of fun in sandlot baseball.

Lisa enters.

LISA

Bart, I need to talk to you about tonight's game.

Bart shuts off the sharpener.

BART

Let me guess. You're afraid. Well, there's no shame in being afraid. We're all afraid. There'd be something wrong with you if you weren't afraid. Anybody who says they're not afraid is lying, I'm afraid.

LISA

I quit hockey.

BART

What are you? Afraid?

LISA

No, I passed gym. I don't need to play anymore.

LISA

But without you, your team doesn't stand...

BART'S FANTASY

INT. SKATING RINK

Lisa's team is skating around the ice with Lisa holding a trophy over her head. We cut over to Bart's dejected losing team, who are slowly skating off the ice.

LISA

(AS SHE PASSES BART) Hey, Bart, thanks for talking me out of quitting!

Bart's team suddenly stops in their tracks.

DOLPH

(TO REST OF TEAM, ANGRY) Hey, did you guys hear that freakin' piece of irony?

KEARNEY

It's Bart's fault we lost!

We cut to Mr. Burns dressed as coach.

MR. BURNS

Kill him... Then come back for the "2,4,6,8," cheer.

The team comes menacingly toward Bart, holding their sticks as weapons. Off of Bart's terrified face, we:

END OF FLASHBACK

BART

(CHANGING ATTITUDE) But then again, when you're right, you're right, Lis. Stick to your guns. And more important, don't be afraid.

Bart quickly exits.

INT. SIMPSON LIVING ROOM - THAT NIGHT

Lisa and Marge are on the couch. Marge is clicking the TV remote trying to find something to watch.

MARGE

It's nice having you home alone, honey. I haven't seen much of you lately.

ON TV

We see two women sitting at a kitchen table.

WOMAN #1

So where are your kids today?

WOMAN #2

I beat them into unconsciousness with a baseball bat. How about yours?

WOMAN #1

I injected them with a deadly virus.

BOTH WOMEN

It's not easy being Mommies!

MARGE/LISA

(ANNOYED MURMUR)

Marge clicks channel again and we see Bart's hockey game.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Look, public access has Bart's game on.

There is a shot of the crowd.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Let's see if we can find your father.

The camera pans the arena, zooming in on Homer. He is covered with all sorts of food stains and holding several beer bottles. He is slumped back in his seat asleep, drool running down his face. Lisa and Marge look at each other in silent embarrassment.

ON TV

Principal Skinner in the press box, announcing the game.

SKINNER

With a break in the action, I'd like to take a moment to thank the people who make this youth hockey league a success. People like myself. I donate my time because I believe in the kids. Not all of them, mind you, but a few. Okay, back to the action...

On the ice, we see Bart slam two players into the glass. He then bends over and delivers a vicious hip-check to another player, causing him to fly into the air and comes crashing down on the ice.

MARGE

Can we switch channels, honey? I'm afraid I'll see Bart get hurt.

LISA

Be my guest. It's not too often you and I get to control the TV.

Marge switches channels.

MARGE

(GASPS) "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"! I love this movie!

Lisa looks warily at Marge.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Ooo, wasn't Peter Frampton cute? And there's the Bee Gees! I had such a crush on the one with the screwed-up teeth. I'll go make some Pop Secret.

Marge exits. Lisa continues to watch movie. We hear a Bee Gees falsetto version of the song, "A Day In The Life". Bored, Lisa picks up the remote and switches back to the hockey game in time to hear:

SKINNER

Score!!! It's now 6-2 with only ten minutes to play. My oh my, the Cows have been turned into bacon tonight!

(LAUGHS)

Lisa sees the dejected faces of her teammates. They are bruised, bandaged, limping, etc.

LISA

If they know they're going to lose, why bother finishing the game?

SKINNER

The Cows obviously wanted this one badly, because they've refused to give up!

Lisa reacts guiltily to the familiar words.

SKINNER (CONT'D)

And what a tough break for the new Cows goalie. He's played his heart out tonight.

There is a close-up of the goalie.

LISA

(LEANING FORWARD, CONFUSED) Who is that?

The goalie turns around. On the back of his jersey, it says: "RUDY". Lisa reacts. Inspirational music comes up.

INT. SIMPSON CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Marge is driving. Maggie is in back, goalie equipment piled all around her.

LISA

Come on, Mom! Faster!

MARGE

I'm going as fast as I can! (BEAT) Did you put a tape in to record the movie?

INT. SKATING RINK PRESS BOX - CONT. ACTION

SKINNER

(UPSET) ...and this broadcaster feels it's a crying shame when fighting breaks out in a children's game.

We cut to ice and see Apu and Mr. Burns are rolling around fighting each other. The kids stand around and watch.

MR. BURNS

I will not take it back! Ethnic slurs are perfectly acceptable on the sporting field.

EXT. SKATING RINK - CONT. ACTION

Marge's car pulls in and stops. The brakes screech.

INT. SIMPSON CAR - CONT. ACTION

LISA

Do you want to come in and watch?

MARGE

Oh, honey, I don't think so. You know how nervous I get.

LISA

Please?

MARGE

(BEAT) Can you promise me you won't get hurt?

LISA

No... But I promise I'll always remember you were there to watch me possibly get hurt.

Marge looks into Lisa's hopeful eyes.

INT. SKATING RINK - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Lisa pops up behind the Cows bench. She is in full uniform.

LISA

I guess now that I've got an "A" in gym, you guys need a real jock to get this team going.

APU

We already have a goalie. Take a hike, quitter.

TEAM

(YELLING AT APU, VARIOUS) Shut up, man!/We need her!/We're getting out asses kicked!

APU

Very well. Welcome aboard.

Lisa steps on the ice. The crowd cheers.

BART

Lisa, what are you doing here?!

LISA

I've come to play the bloody sport that has somehow touched my heart.

As Lisa approaches the goal, Rudy steps out, takes his mask off and waves to the crowd. The crowd turns.

CROWD

(VARIOUS) Go home, Rudy!/You're too small, Rudy!/Your Mommy's calling, Rudy!

Rudy bursts into tears and quickly exits.

ANGLE ON BART'S TEAM BENCH

Mr. Burns is pacing nervously behind his players.

MR. BURNS

I don't like the looks of this. The dramatic surprise appearance of their star player seems to have the other team fired up.

BART

Relax, Coach, they'll have to score a lot of goals to catch us.

QUICK MONTAGE

The Cows score five rapid fire goals to tie game 7-7.

BART

Rats.

SKINNER

With only ten seconds left, it looks like this is going to wind up a tie. What a game! This has got to be one tired bunch of kids...(FIRM) but they better be in school by 8:17. Capice?

ANGLE ON LISA'S TEAM BENCH

The team is gathered around Apu who is reading from a telegram.

APU

The Kwik-E-Mart Corporation says that they are proud of each and every one of you for your miraculous comeback and you should consider this tie a victory.

The kids smile.

APU (CONT'D)

(STILL READING) However, not winning is still a major corporate embarrassment, so you will not be receiving jackets or commemorative trinkets of any kind.

ANGLE ON BART'S TEAM BENCH

The players surround Mr. Burns.

MR. BURNS

Team, I've been keeping this information from you, but somebody's parents were killed tonight in a tragic plane crash...

The kids look horrified.

SMITHERS

Sir, don't...

MR. BURNS

Oh, alright. I was just trying to rev them up.... How about a trip to Six Flags Over Shelbyville for whoever scores the winning goal?

TEAM

Yay!

The team skates to center ice. Bart wins the face-off from Jimbo and rushes down the ice with the puck toward Lisa. Bart splits the defense and has a clear breakaway. The crowd stands and yells.

ANGLE ON SEATS

Homer is now awake and Marge is sitting with her eyes covered.

MARGE

Homer, what's going on?

HOMER

Oh, no! Lisa split her skull open!

MARGE

(OPENS EYES WIDE) What?!!

HOMER

Made you look! (LAUGHS, THEN CASUALLY) Actually, Bart has a breakaway on Lisa and could score the winning goal.

ANGLE ON BURNS

BURNS

You can do it, Bartholomew.

ANGLE ON APU

APU

You can stop him, Lisa!

ANGLE ON MARGE

MARGE

(YELLING) I love you both, no matter what the outcome!

Some fans stare at her.

MARGE (CONT'D)

(TO CROWD) Well, I'd like to see you handle it better!

The crowd returns to normal.

ANGLE ON BART AND LISA

Bart is coming down on Lisa.

BART'S BRAIN

If you score, you'll be a hero to your team, but you'll also humiliate your sister. And you'll have to live with that guilt the rest of your life.

BART

Okay... Get ready, Lisa, here comes the pain!

LISA'S BRAIN

If you stop him, you've pulled off the comeback of the year, but your brother will be beaten up by his teammates and be the laughing stock of Springfield.

LISA

Anything else?

LISA'S BRAIN

No, that's about it.

LISA

Come on, Bart, take your best shot!

ANGLE ON MARGE

MARGE

Oh, Homie, this is too exciting! I can't stand it!

We pan over to Homer, who has fallen asleep again, this time with a beer bottle up to his mouth.

ANGLE ON BART AND LISA

Bart does a couple of fancy stick moves with the puck, then:

BART

(TRYING TO DISTRACT HER) Hey, Lisa, did you hear the library burnt down?

LISA

No! Not the library!

Bart takes advantage of Lisa's lapse in concentration and shoots the puck between her legs and scores.

BART

(LAUGHS)

Bart is mobbed by his team. He looks over and sees Lisa, still down on her knees, slowly fishing the puck out of the goal.

INT. SKATING RINK - MOMENTS LATER

The two teams are lined up, doing the traditional end of game handshake. Bart is at the end of his line. Lisa is at the end of hers.

LISA

(SHAKING HANDS) Congratulations. Good game. Way to go...

BART

(SHAKING HANDS) You sucked, you stunk, you rot...

Bart sees Lisa getting closer. He gets nervous.

LISA

Bart, you deceived me when I came to you for advice and you used trickery again to win the game. Don't you have anything else to say?

BART

(BEAT) I'm going to Six Flags Over Shelbyville!

Bart skates away. Lisa's team approaches.

JIMBO

Thank you for not abandoning us, Lisa. (HOLDS UP A BEAUTIFUL RING) We stole this from Mr. Burns and want you to have it.

LISA

(A LA "SCHINDLER'S LIST") But I could have done more, Jimbo. If I wasn't so slow putting my equipment on, I could have saved more goals... These skates, one goal... These pads, three goals, definitely two... This mask...

APU

(INTERRUPTS) There is an old Canadian saying, Lisa, that he who saves one goal, eventually saves the entire game...providing, of course, you win by only one goal.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - A FEW DAYS LATER

Bart gets off a brightly colored bus marked "Six Flags Over Shelbyville". He's holding a giant stuffed animal, cotton candy, etc. He whistles as he enters the house.

INT. SIMPSON LIVING ROOM - CONT. ACTION

Bart sees Lisa entering living room from opposite direction.

LISA

Hi, Bart.

BART

(SURPRISED) Hey, Lis. I'm glad you're finally speaking to...

As they pass each other, Lisa suddenly throws a vicious hip check on Bart, which sends him and all his stuff flying through the air and crashing to the floor.

LISA

(CONTINUES WALKING, TO SELF, SMILING)

I can't say that nothing positive came out of this savage experience.

CUT TO END CREDITS

END OF SHOW